

REMARKS

In the Office Action under reply, restriction was required as follows:

Group I claims 1-14 and 39-44, characterized by the Examiner as being directed to a digital picture signal processing apparatus comprising a picture processing means and a mode designating means; and


Group II claims 15-38 and 45-48, characterized by the Examiner as being directed to a digital picture signal processing apparatus comprising means for creating a histogram and means for detecting max and min values.

Without commenting on the accuracy of the Examiner's characterization of the subject matter of the respective groups of claims, Applicants elect, **without traverse**, Group I claims 1-14 and 39-44 for further prosecution in the present application. To simplify the prosecution of this application, non-elected claims 15-38 and 45-48 are cancelled.

Applicants reserve their right to file a divisional application to re-present the nonelected claims.

An early examination on the merits of the elected claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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